

Appl. No. 09/836,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 3

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. – 38. Cancelled

39. (Currently Amended) ~~An electrode assembly delivery~~ A system for placing an electrical lead having an electrode assembly in a patient, comprising:

an elongate delivery device including a proximal portion, an atraumatic distal portion, and an electrode retention member adapted to temporarily couple the electrode assembly to the delivery device; the proximal portion extending proximal to the ~~coupling~~ electrode retention member and the atraumatic distal portion extending distal to the ~~coupling~~ electrode retention member; and

an elongate introducer including a lumen having a diameter sufficient to ~~slideably engage~~ receive the proximal portion of the delivery device and further including a distal tip adapted to dislodge the electrode assembly ~~distally from the retention member when the proximal portion of the delivery device extends within the lumen of the introducer, the distal portion of the delivery device extends distal to the introducer distal tip and the electrode assembly is mounted on the retention member.~~

40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the delivery device is steerable.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the delivery device further includes a deflection wire coupled to a distal end of the atraumatic distal portion and extending to a proximal end of the delivery device.

42. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the atraumatic distal portion is shapeable.

43. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member has an outer surface adapted to form a press fit with an inner

Appl. No. 09/836,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 4

surface of a tubular portion of the electrode assembly to temporarily couple the electrode assembly to the delivery device.

44. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member is formed as a polymeric plug.

45. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member is rotatably mounted upon the delivery device.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member is held in a grooved portion of the delivery device.

47. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member is formed by multiple bends in the delivery device.

48. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode retention member is formed by bristles extending radially from the delivery device.

49. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein an inflatable member forms the electrode retention member.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode assembly includes an elongate lead extending proximally therefrom, and a diameter of the introducer lumen is further sufficient to slideably engage the elongate lead.

51. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 39, wherein the electrode assembly includes an elongate lead extending proximally therefrom and the introducer further includes a grooved member adapted to temporarily couple the elongate lead to an outer surface of the introducer.

Appl. No. 09/838,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 5

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the distal tip of the introducer includes a nesting taper to aid in alignment of the electrode assembly for dislodging the electrode assembly.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein the distal tip of the introducer is radiopaque.

54. (Withdrawn) A method for delivering an electrode assembly, comprising the steps of:

coupling an electrode assembly to an electrode retention member of an elongate delivery device, the elongate delivery device including a proximal portion extending proximally from the electrode retention member and an atraumatic distal portion extending distally from the electrode retention member;
introducing the delivery device into a vascular system; and
steering the delivery device within the vascular system to position the electrode assembly at a delivery site in the vascular system.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein coupling the electrode assembly is by means of a press fit on the electrode retention member.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, further comprising the step of deflecting the distal portion of the delivery device.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the electrode retention member is rotatably mounted on the delivery device and the step of steering of the delivery device includes rotating the distal portion of the delivery device independent of the electrode retention member.

Appl. No. 09/836,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 6

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of steering the delivery device includes deflecting the distal portion of the delivery device by means of a deflection wire, the deflection wire attached to a distal tip of the distal portion and extending proximally to a proximal end of the delivery device.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, further comprising the steps of:
loading the proximal portion of the delivery device into a lumen of an elongate introducer;
advancing the introducer over the delivery device to engage a proximal portion of the electrode assembly; and
dislodging the electrode assembly from the electrode retention member by means of the engagement with the introducer.

60. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein dislodging the electrode includes holding the introducer in engagement with the electrode assembly and pulling the delivery device proximally within the introducer.

61. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, wherein dislodging the electrode includes holding the electrode assembly coupled to the delivery device in engagement with the introducer and pushing the introducer distally over the delivery device.

62. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of loading a lead extending proximally from the electrode assembly into the lumen of the introducer.

63. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 59, further comprising the step of loading a lead extending proximally from the electrode assembly into a grooved member formed along an outer surface of a proximal portion of the introducer.

Appl. No. 09/838,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 7

64. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the retention member includes an inflatable member and the step of coupling the electrode assembly includes inflating the inflatable member.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the step of introducing the delivery device precedes the step of coupling the electrode assembly to the electrode retention member of the delivery device and further comprising the step of advancing the delivery device to a site where the electrode assembly has been previously delivered to perform the step of coupling the electrode assembly to the electrode retention member of the delivery device prior to the step of steering the delivery device to position the electrode assembly at the delivery site.

66. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the retention member includes an inflatable member and the step of coupling the electrode assembly includes inflating the inflatable member.

67. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein:

the electrode assembly includes an elongate lead extending proximally therefrom such that a proximal end of the lead extends out from the vascular system; and

the step of coupling the electrode assembly includes applying tension to the lead by grasping in proximity to the proximal end of the lead.

68. (Withdrawn) An electrical pulse delivery system, comprising:

an elongate member;

an electrode assembly including an electrode portion having a lumen extending therethrough adapted to slideably engage the elongate member and an elongate lead coupled to the electrode portion and extending proximally therefrom; and

Appl. No. 09/836,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 8

an introducer including an introducer lumen adapted to slideably engage the elongate member and a distal tip adapted to push the electrode portion distally when the elongate member is slideably engaged in the lumen of the electrode portion and the introducer lumen.

69. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 68, wherein the electrode portion comprises a defibrillation electrode.

70. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 68, wherein the elongate member comprises a guidewire.

71. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 68, wherein the elongate member comprises a previously implanted medical lead.

72. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 71, further comprising an extension wire adapted to couple with the implanted lead and extend proximally therefrom.

73. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 72, wherein the implanted medical lead includes a lumen to facilitate coupling with the extension wire.

74. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 71, wherein the electrode portion comprises a defibrillation electrode.

75. (Withdrawn) A method for delivering an electrode assembly, comprising the step of pushing the electrode assembly over an elongate member to an implant site by means of an introducer; wherein:

the electrode assembly includes an electrode portion having a lumen adapted to slidably engage the elongate member and an elongate lead coupled to the electrode portion and extending proximally therefrom; and

Appl. No. 09/836,017
Amdt. dated 01/04/05
Response to Office Action of September 8, 2004
Page 9

the introducer includes a lumen adapted to slidably engage the elongate member.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein the elongate member comprises a guidewire.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein the elongate member comprises a previously implanted medical lead.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 77, further comprising the step of coupling an extension wire to the lead.

79. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein the electrode portion comprises a defibrillation electrode.